



Flooding/Severe Storms

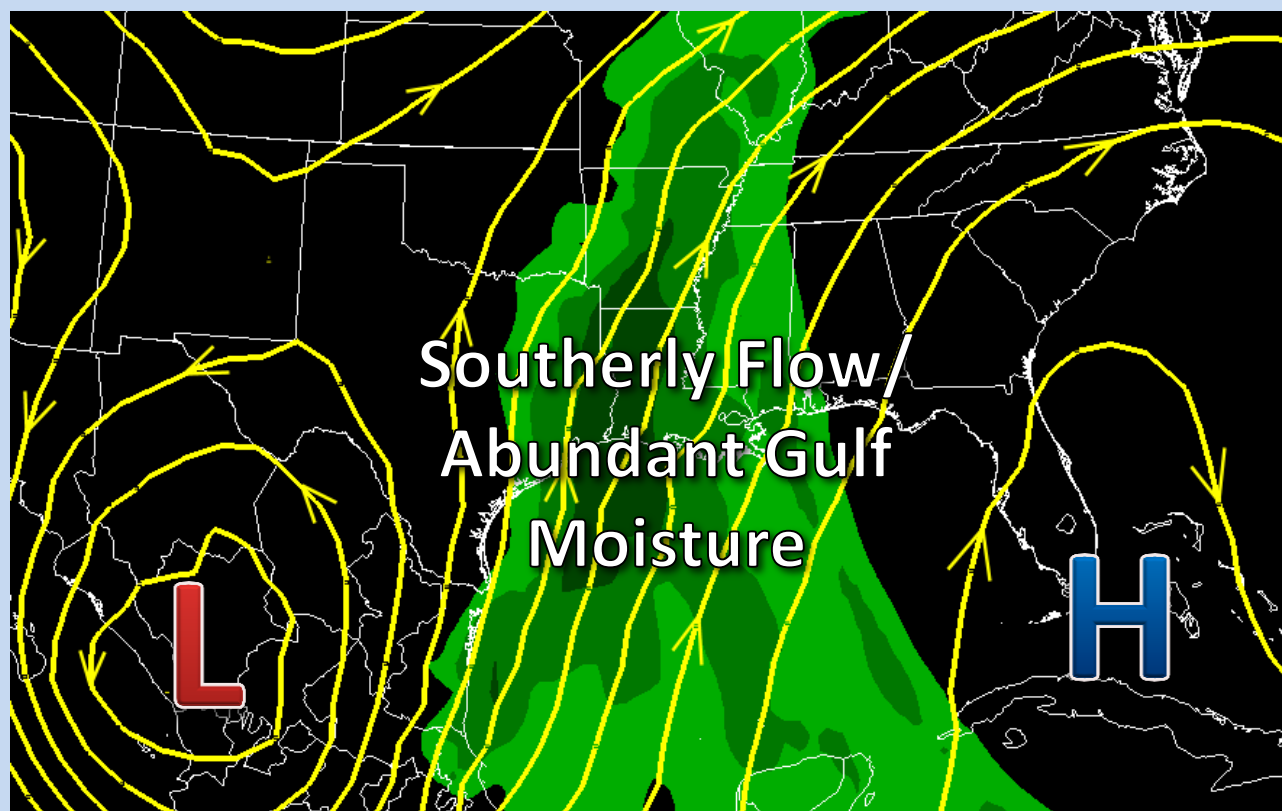
March 8-13, 2016

National Weather Service
Little Rock, Arkansas

The Story Line

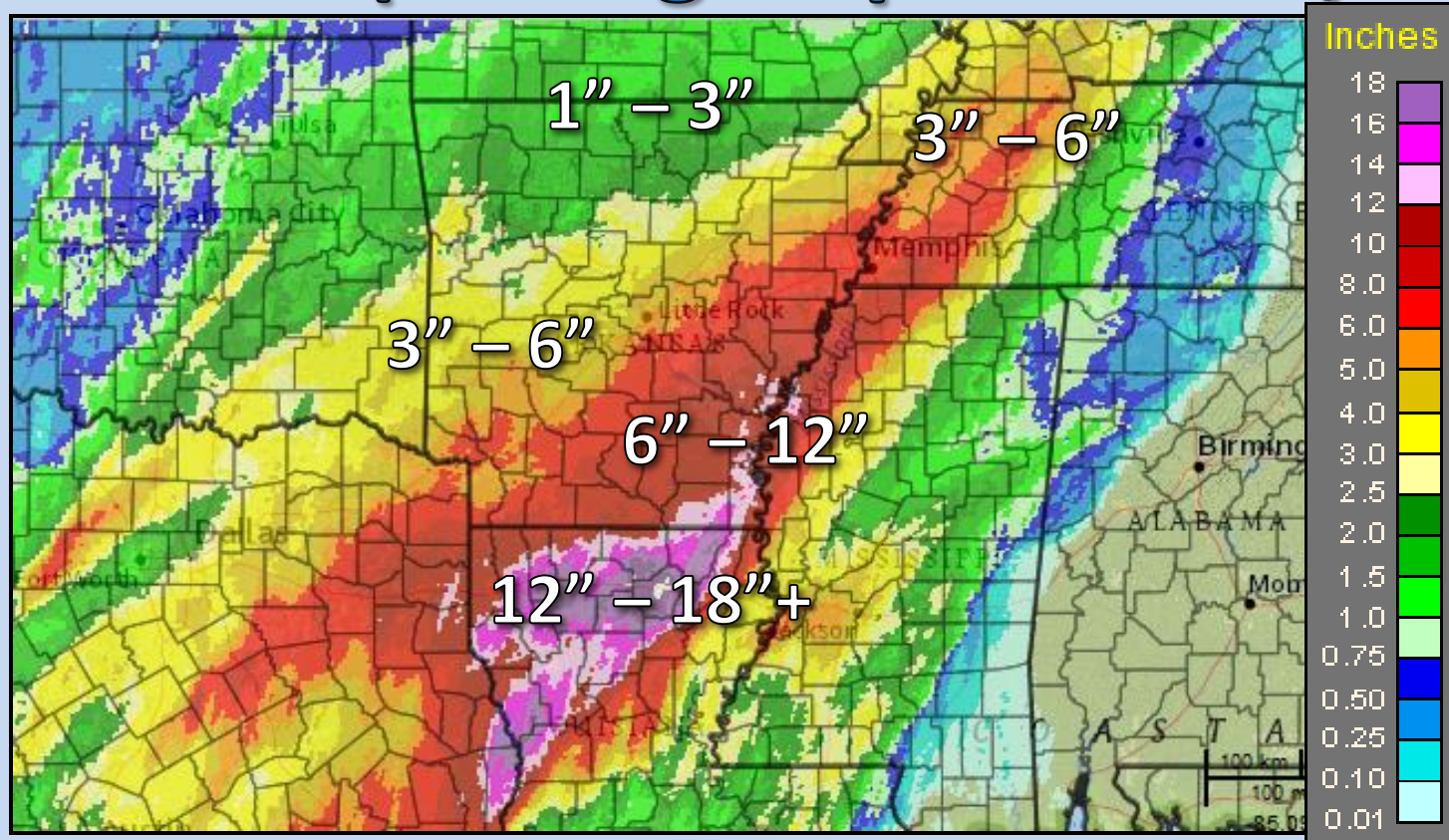
- A large storm system wobbled toward Arkansas from the southwest Tuesday through Thursday (03/08 to 03/10), and pulled abundant Gulf moisture northward.
- More than 8 inches of rain fell in southeast Arkansas, resulting in significant flash flooding. Minor flooding occurred on some rivers (such as the lower White, Cache, Saline, and Ouachita Rivers).
- After widespread heavy rain ended, another system arrived from the Plains on Sunday (03/13), and triggered a round of severe storms.

Wet Pattern (03/08 – 03/10)



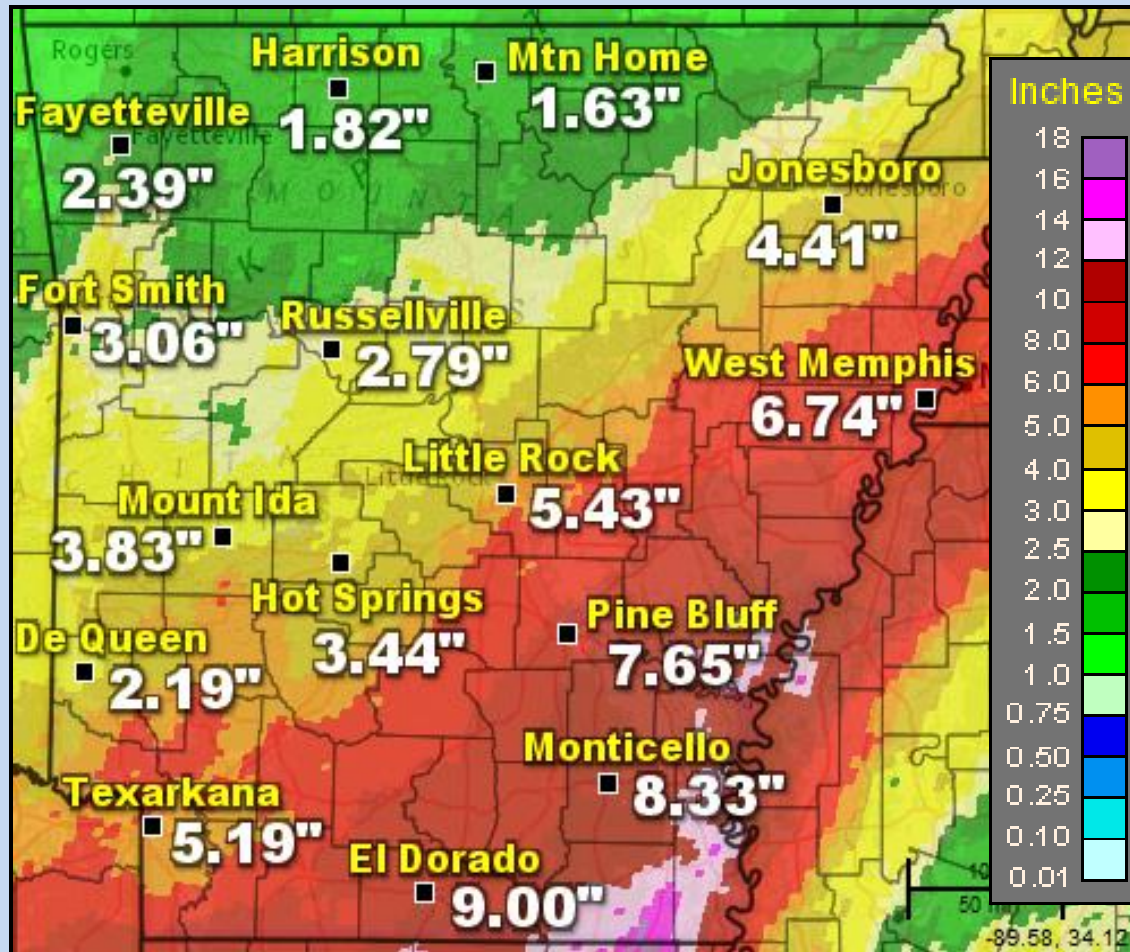
A storm system ("L") in Mexico had difficulty moving east due to a ridge of high pressure ("H") over Florida. Southerly flow between these features pumped Gulf moisture northward.

Rainfall (Through 6 pm CST 03/10)



Four to more than eight inches of rain occurred over the southeast half of Arkansas through 6 pm CST Thursday, with one to three inches across the northwest half.

Rainfall (Through 6 pm CST 03/10)



The largest totals were in the southeast, with more than a half foot of rain at El Dorado (Union County), Monticello (Drew County), Pine Bluff (Jefferson County), and West Memphis (Crittenden County).

Flash Flooding (03/09)



Roads were under water in parts of southern Arkansas Wednesday afternoon, including the Humphrey (Arkansas and Jefferson County line) area. The photo is courtesy of Jillian D. Bogy via Twitter.

Flood Message



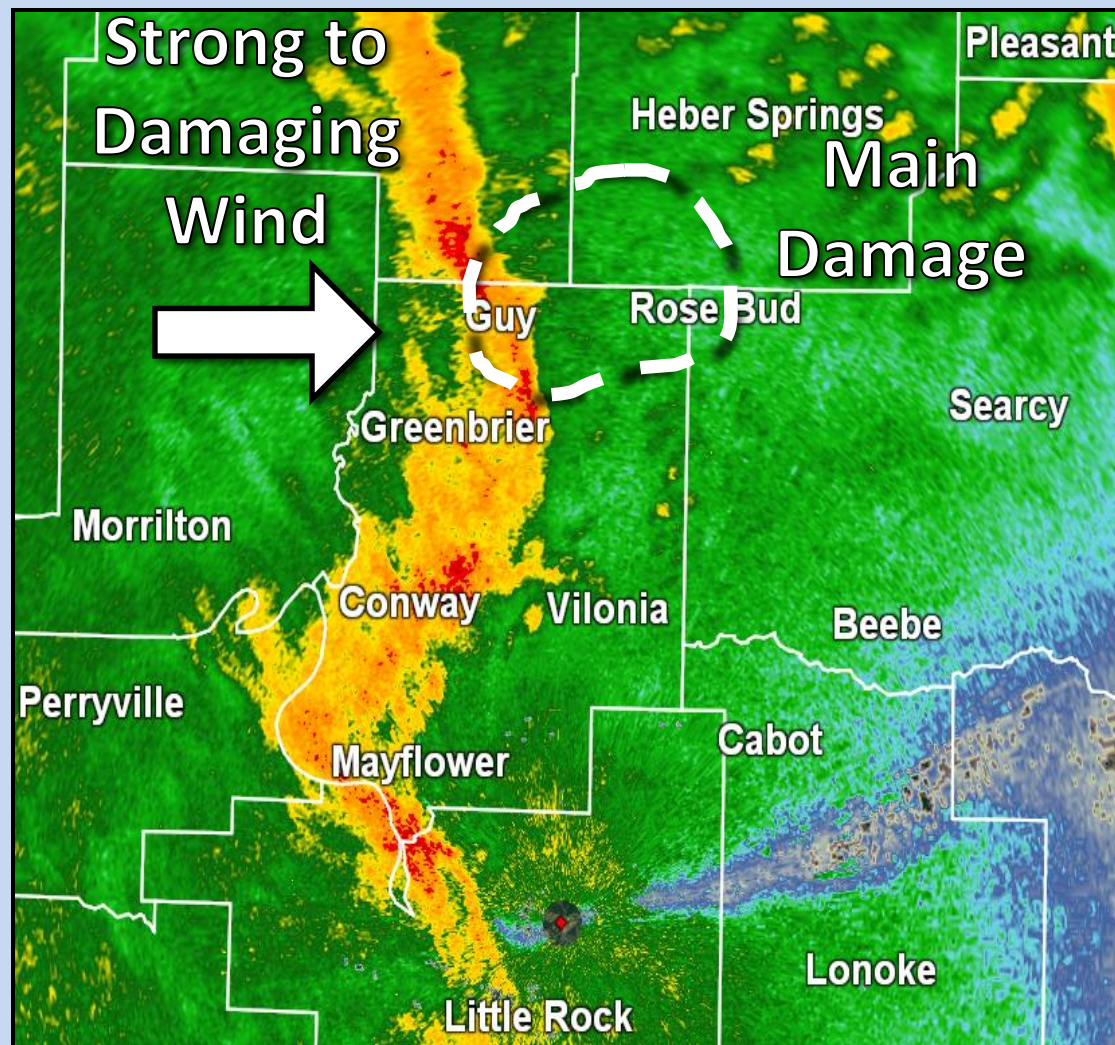
Significant flash flooding (i.e. roads under water, high water threatening homes and businesses, etc) was mainly reported in southeast Arkansas. If you are a motorist, and encounter water across a road...stop! Turn Around, Don't Drown!

River Flooding

<i>Precipitation in 2016 (Through February)</i>				
Site	Amount	Normal	+/-	% of Normal
Fayetteville (NW AR)	1.15	5.65	-4.50	20%
Harrison (NC AR)	2.28	5.20	-2.92	44%
Jonesboro (NE AR)	3.93	7.15	-3.22	55%
Fort Smith (WC AR)	2.15	5.57	-3.42	39%
Little Rock (C AR)	5.69	7.21	-1.52	79%
West Memphis (EC AR)	5.80	8.63	-2.83	67%
Texarkana (SW AR)	6.12	7.39	-1.27	83%
El Dorado (SC AR)	7.60	9.09	-1.49	84%
Pine Bluff (SE AR)	6.05	7.82	-1.77	77%

Minor river flooding was occurring or is expected on some areas rivers, mainly in the southeast half of the state. It could have been much worse, but water levels were down following a dry January/February. This left room for runoff following this event.

Severe Storms (620 pm CST 03/08)



Strong to damaging wind was associated with a line of storms in northern Arkansas early Tuesday evening. Trees were downed and there was some structural damage from Bee Branch (Van Buren County) and Greenbrier (Faulkner County) to Quitman (Cleburne County).



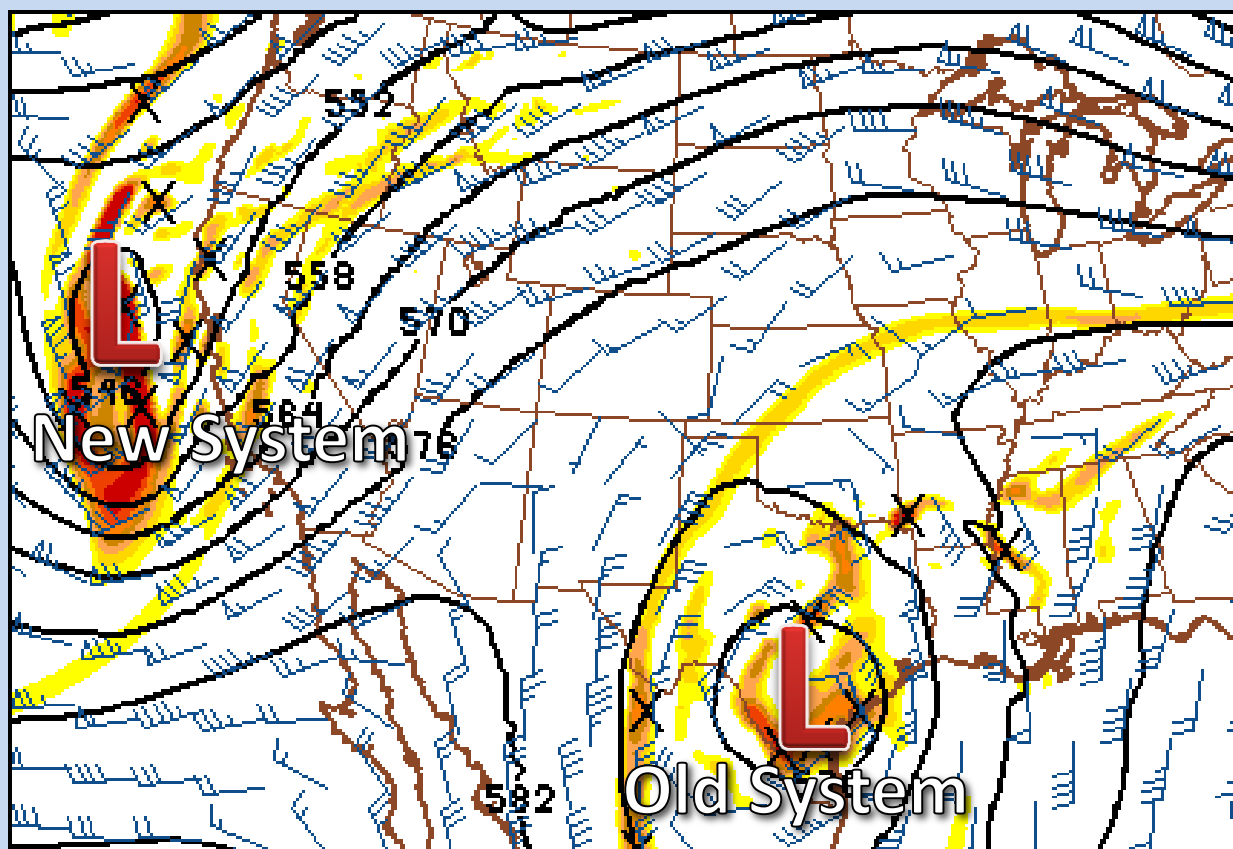
Storm Damage (03/08)



Parts of the roof were removed from this home near Quitman (Cleburne County). The photo is courtesy of Crystal Burrow via Twitter.

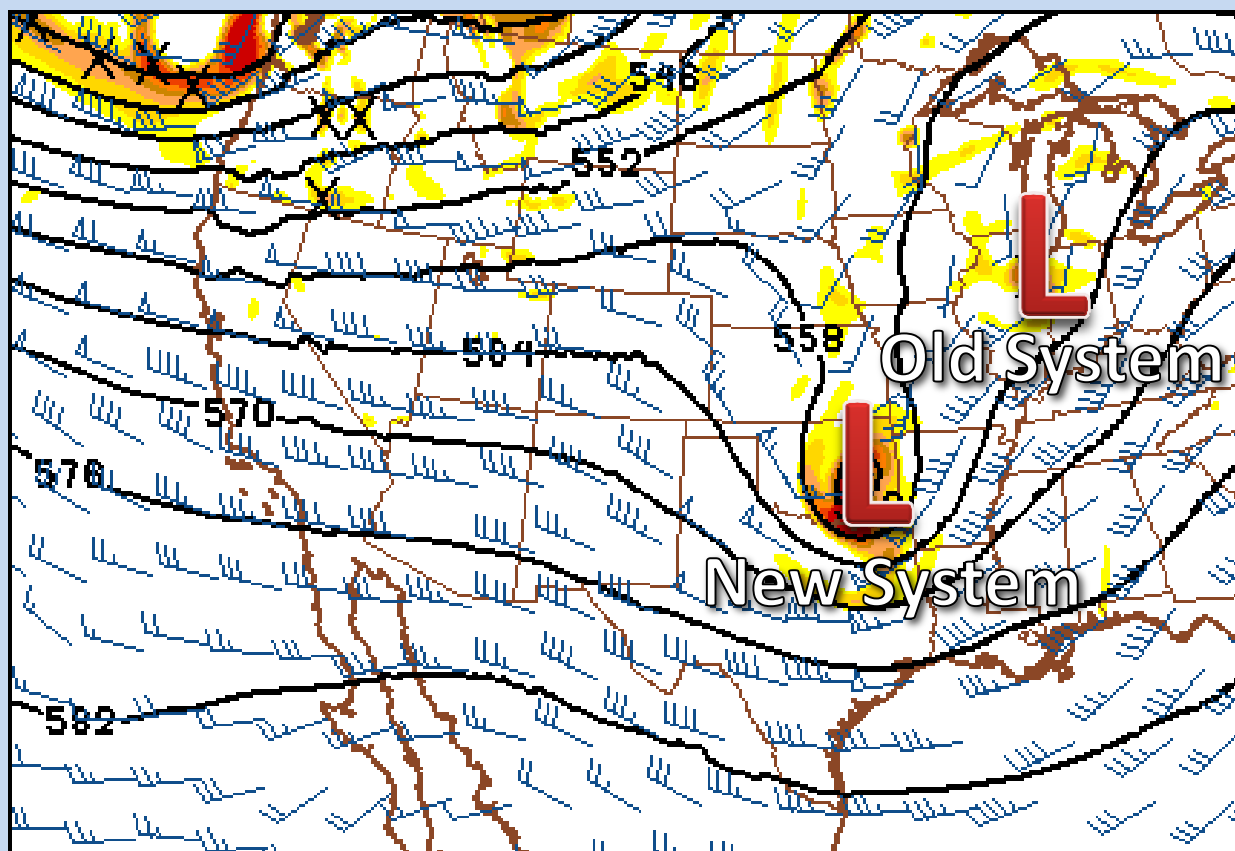
©2016 Crystal Burrow

Old System/New System (03/11)



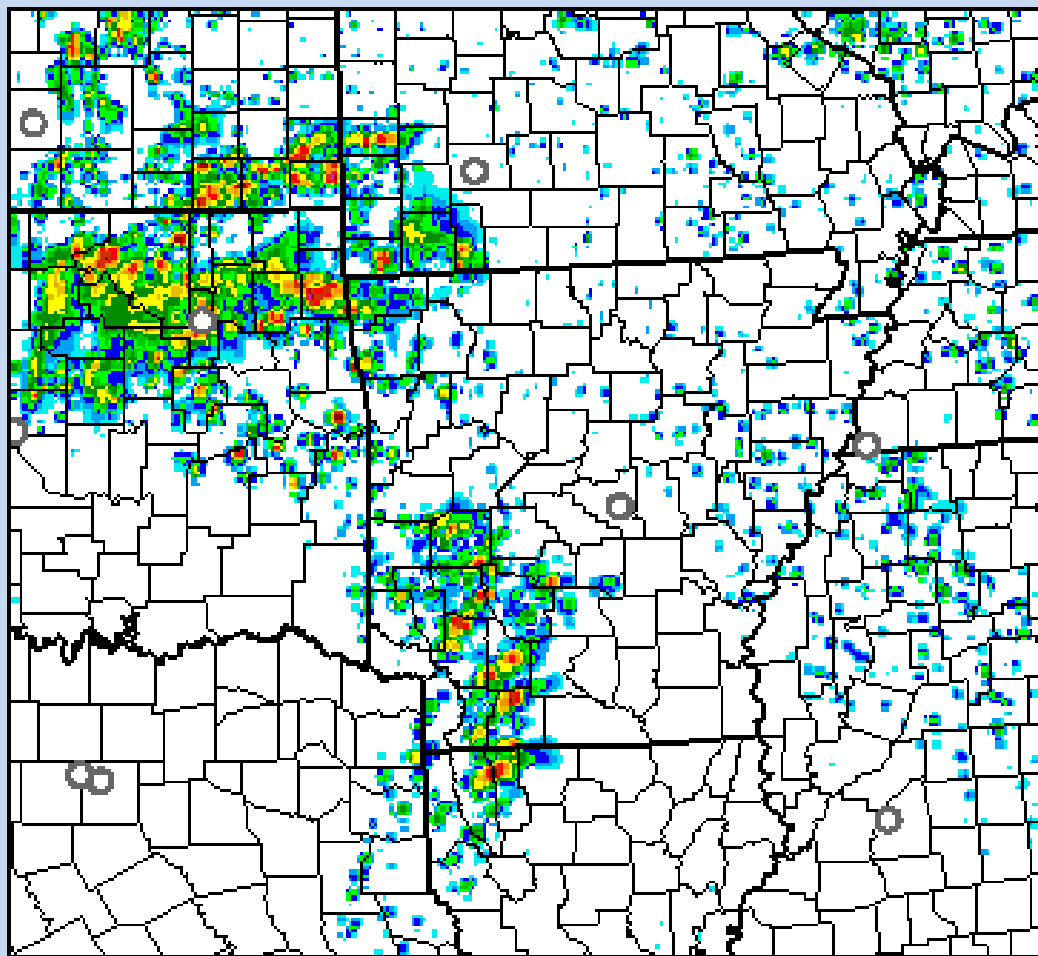
On Friday (03/11), the big rainmaking system (old) was over Texas, with a new system arriving in California.

Old System/New System (03/13)



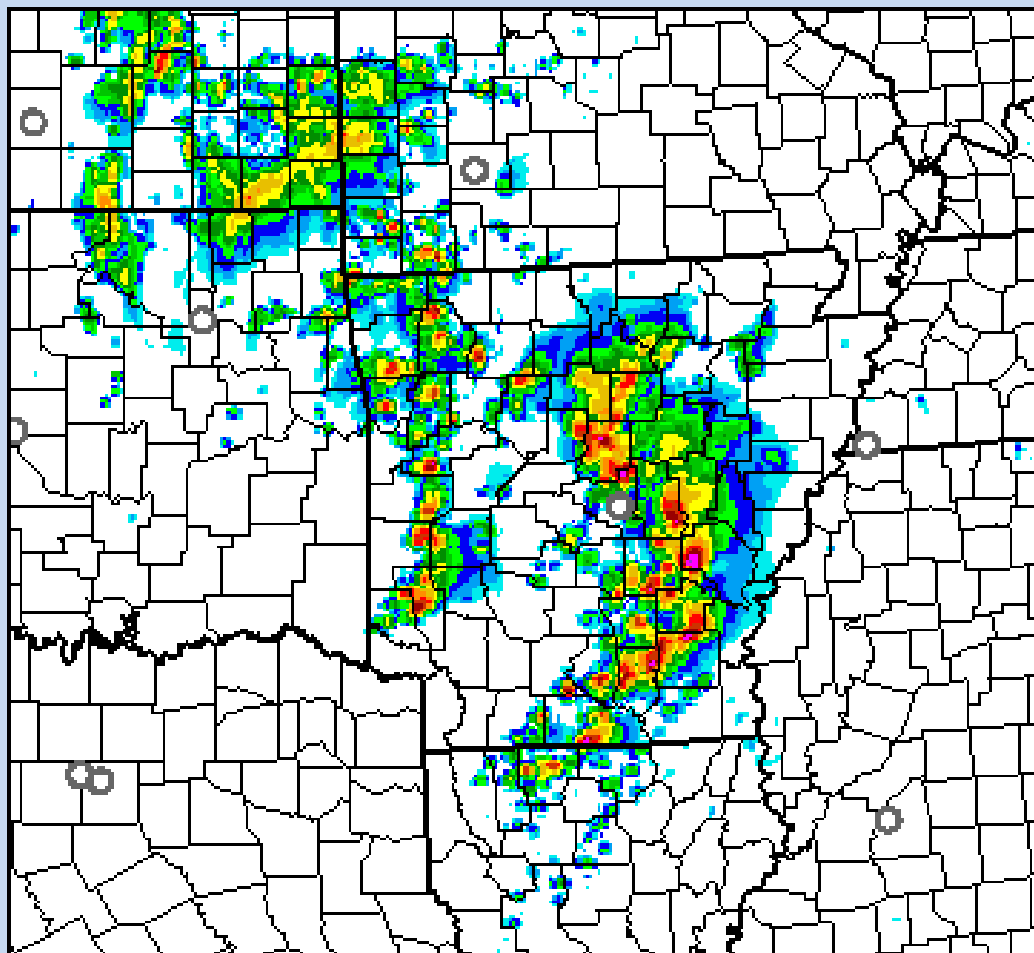
The rainmaking system (old) weakened by Sunday (03/13) as it tracked toward the Ohio Valley. The new system rapidly approached Arkansas from Oklahoma.

Simulated Radar (4 pm CDT 03/13)



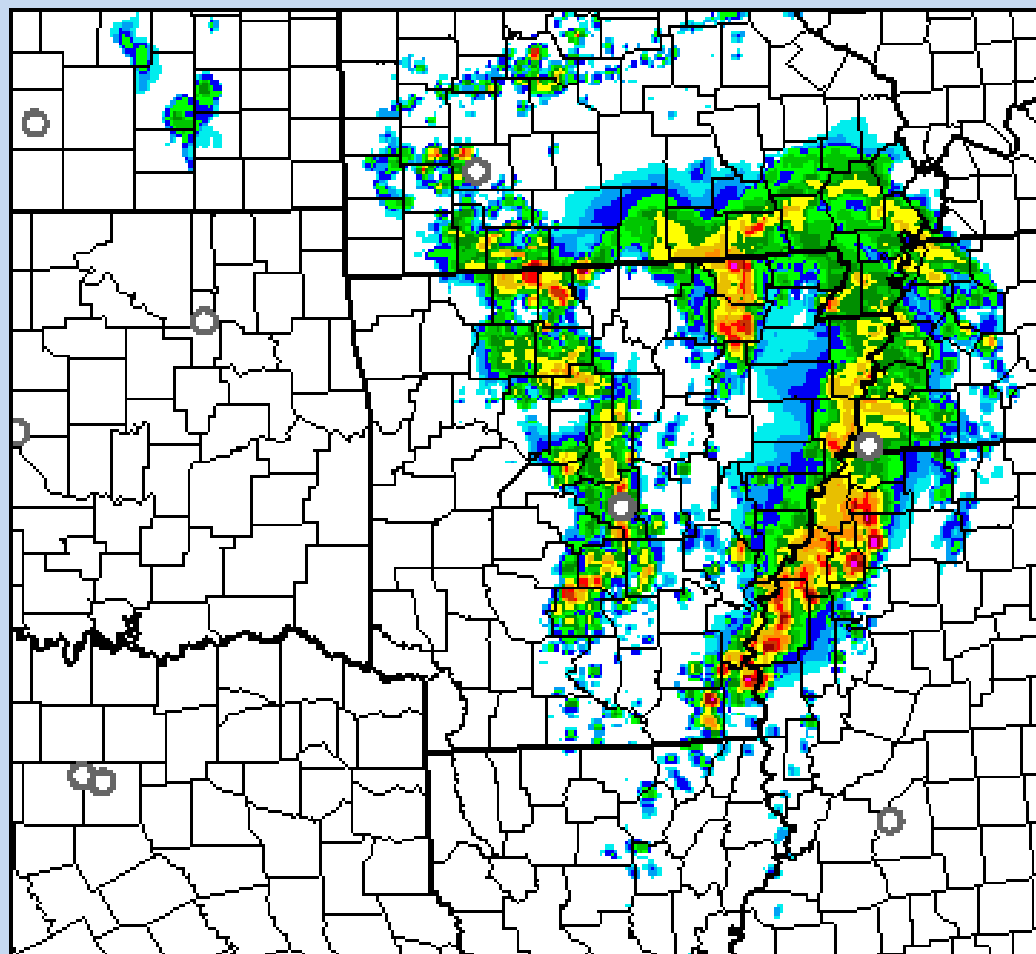
This particular model showed storms developing and intensifying in western Arkansas Sunday afternoon (03/13).

Simulated Radar (7 pm CDT 03/13)



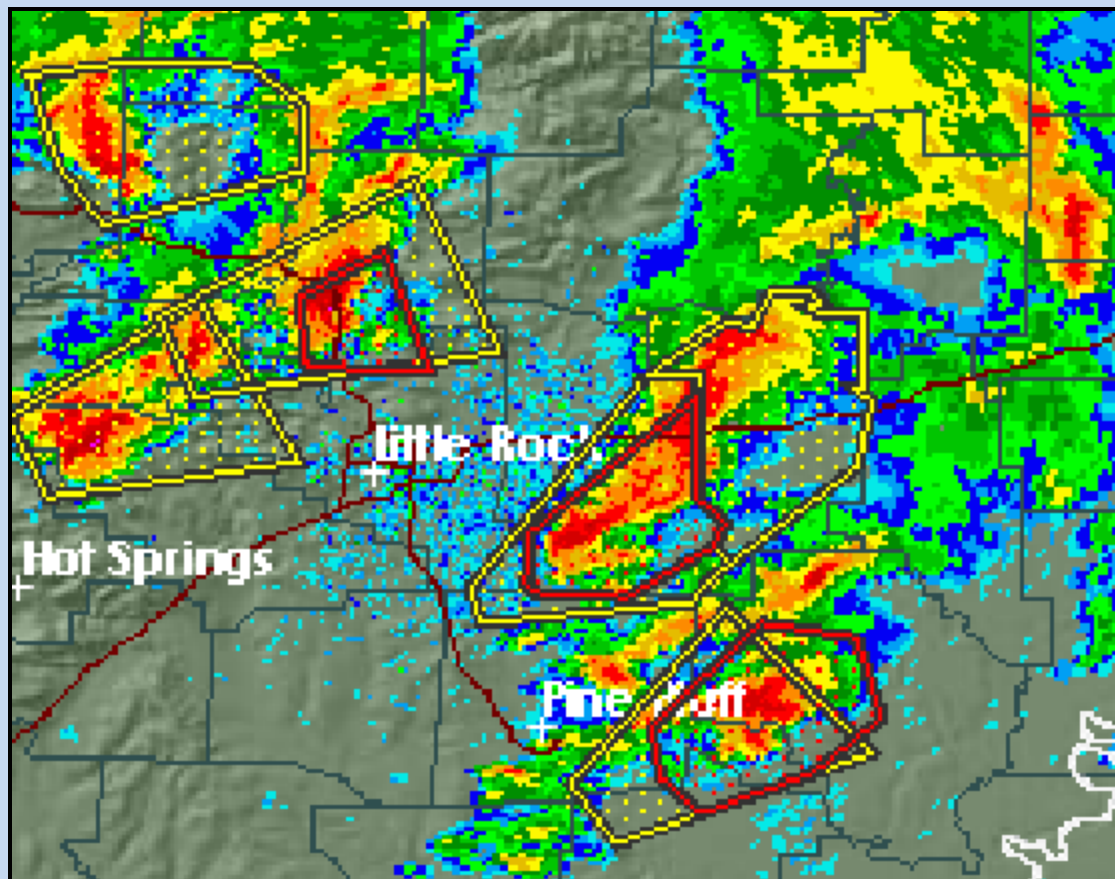
By early Sunday evening (03/13), strong to severe storms were in central sections of the state.

Simulated Radar (10 pm CDT 03/13)



**Strong to severe storms
approached the
Mississippi River by late
Sunday evening (03/13).**

Radar/Warnings (644 pm CDT 03/13)



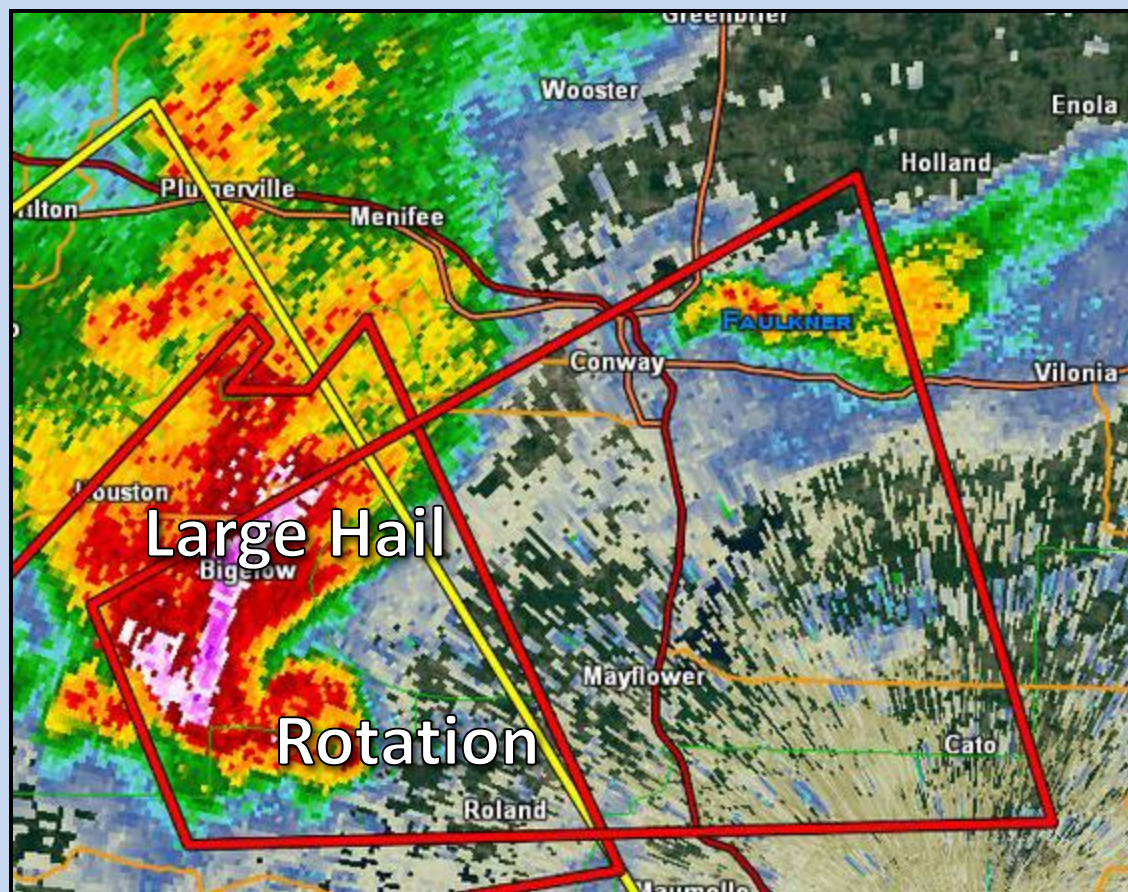
Numerous Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings were issued by the National Weather Service.

Warnings:

Tornado

Severe Thunderstorm

Radar/Warnings (623 pm CDT 03/13)



Many of the storms had similar structure, with large hail cores and rotation (sometimes strong). The storm pictured was just to the southwest of Conway (Faulkner County). A Tornado Warning was in effect.

Large Hail (03/13)



©2016 Hayley Nicole

There was more hail reported than anything else. One storm produced ping pong ball size hail near Malvern (Hot Spring County) at 450 pm CDT. The photo is courtesy of Hayley Nicole via Twitter.

Storm Damage (03/13)

- **Ten weak (rated EF0/EF1) tornadoes have been confirmed in Arkansas. Seven of these were in the Little Rock County Warning Area (Arkansas, Desha, Jefferson, Montgomery, Perry, Pulaski, and Scott Counties).**
- **Damage surveys have concluded, but data (i.e. radar, videos/photos, etc.) is being analyzed to determine if additional surveys are needed.**
- **There may be damage that has yet to be discovered/reported, especially in rural areas.**



Links of Interest

[Damage Survey Information](#)

[Track Info in the Little Rock County Warning Area \(KMZ\)](#)

[Local Storm Reports: Flooding \(03/08 – 03/12\)](#)

[Local Storm Reports: Severe \(03/13\)](#)

[River Forecast \(Next 5 Days\)](#)

[Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service \(AHPS\)](#)